



Tayac the resident bald eagle



Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center

CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAEOE Green Center



Trash Free!

Nanjemoy Creek EE Center has made the commitment to go “trash free” for the school year 2014-2015. So, what does it mean to be “trash free”? The phrase “trash free” is a bit of a misnomer. In hearing the term, you may think that NCEEC is trying to produce zero trash. However, that is not the case. Being “trash free” is a mindset and can be thought of as the end goal. It requires a change in thinking. Instead of the garbage can being the first place you go to when encountering a piece of trash, it is now the last place, when all other ave-

nues have been exhausted. If the trash item is inorganic, you first need to ask yourself, “can the item be reused?” If not, then ask, “can I recycle the item?” If the answer to both of those questions is a no, then the item is placed in the trash. If the trash item is organic, you would ask, “can it be composted” before throwing it in the trash. By adopting this change in how we think about trash, NCEEC will reduce the amount of waste produced onsite. Why try to be “trash free?” As the human population increases, so does our demand for natural re-

sources. Consequently, as more natural resources are used, our production of waste will also increase. By teaching students about waste reduction, we are tying together the Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards (which cover natural resources and sustainability) as well as NCEEC’s theme of environmental stewardship. Our goal is to introduce students to the concepts of sustainability, stewardship and natural resources so they can start thinking about how they can create a sustainable future.



Raptors in Residence

NCEEC is the home for several birds of prey. All of our birds are graduates of veterinary care and rehabilitation. Each bird has a permanent injury that makes

the bird unable to survive in the wild on its own. We feed them laboratory control mice from a scientific research company and the bald eagles periodically get fish. Yearly, each bird visits the vet for a check-

up. Birds of prey have special adaptations that allow them to hunt and consume their prey.

Earth

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